



# LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY Health Department

1930 Ninth Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601  
406.4HEALTH or 406.443.2584  
Fax: 406.457.8990

For immediate release

April 1, 2013

Contact: Kathy Moore, Environmental Services Administrator, 406-457-8926

Gayle Shirley, Communications Coordinator, 406-457-8908

## **Health Board Adopts East Helena Soil Regulations**

The Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health has unanimously passed regulations governing the displacement and disposal of soil in the East Helena Superfund area.

The purpose of the regulations, which take effect June 1, is to protect the public health and control pollution by protecting soil clean-up work that has been completed in and around the Superfund site.

Under the regulations, anyone planning to displace or dispose of more than one cubic yard (about half a pickup load) of soil within the site must get a permit. The permits will be available free of charge from the Lead Education and Abatement Program (LEAP) of the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department, located in East Helena City Hall.

Workers who displace and dispose of potentially contaminated soils must also be certified (at no cost to them) by LEAP. Contaminated soil must be disposed of at a site approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The regulations apply to all land-use activities, other than farm and garden tilling, that disturb soil in the Superfund area within Lewis and Clark County.

In response to public comment, the health board extended the life of a permit from 1 to 2 years and allowed emergency actions, such as fixing a water or sewer line leak, to be conducted without a permit. The emergency action still must be reported to LEAP on the next business day.

The board also eliminated a proposal that people seeking certification must pass a test.

A copy of the regulations, as well as a map showing the administrative boundaries of the Superfund area, is available at [www.LewisandClarkHealth.org](http://www.LewisandClarkHealth.org) or by calling the Lead Education and Abatement Program at 457-8583.

Soil in East Helena was contaminated with lead and arsenic by the Asarco lead smelter, which operated there from 1888 until 2001. The EPA and the health department have been working to clean up the soil since 1991.

*The mission of the Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department is to  
improve and protect the health of all county residents.*

But, according to the EPA in its Record of Decision for the Superfund site, “lead in the environment cannot be completely eliminated or contained.” In some cases, contaminated soil remains in place or is capped with clean soil.

*The mission of the Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department is to  
improve and protect the health of all county residents.*